

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 SSC-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 /139 W

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P R 131415Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3703

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSYLONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

DIA FOR A2 AND DI5

REF: ROME 3446

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1. DIVISION OF MINISTERIAL POSITIONS BETWEEN AND WITHIN PARTIES

NOW SEEMS ONLY ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO CREATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH MANY THINK MAY BE SWORN IN BY WEEK'S END. PARTIES APPARENTLY HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO ABOLISH FOUR MINISTER-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO SLOTS AND TO REDUCE UNDERSECRETARIES FROM PRESENT 58 TO POSSIBLY AS FEW AS 40. STILL UNCERTAIN IS PARTICIPATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT BY PSI MINORITY LEADER MANCINI AND PROMINENT DC PERSONALITIES CURRENTLY OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS FORLANI AND ANDREOTTI.

2. IN PCI POLITICAL OFFICE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED TODAY, COMMUNISTS REITERATE THEIR THREAT OF SHIFT TO A "CLEAR AND INTRANSIGENT" OPPOSITION. PCI THREAT CONTINUES TO BE EXPRESSED IN CONDITIONAL TERMS AND IS MADE DEPENDENT ON CHARACTER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, POLITICAL OFFICE STATEMENT IS SEVERLY CRITICAL OF TENDENCIES THUS FAR EMERGING IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO RECONSTITUTE CENTER-LEFT. LEADERSHIP OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY RECEIVES PARTICULAR VITUPERATION AND IS ACCUSED OF MISHANDLING ECONOMIC CRISIS AND OF FAILURE TO AVOID DIVORCE REFERENDUM. WHILE PCI LIKELY TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN POLICY SHIFT WHICH WOULD TEMPORARILY SUSPECT "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" PROSPECTS, PARTY LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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